

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,775,891 to Aoki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,552,705 to Hirota and (WO 99/05567) to Johnson.

Claims 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1, 8 and 19 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are presently pending for consideration on the merits.

All Claims Comply With 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,775,891 to Aoki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,552,705 to Hirota and (WO 99/05567) to Johnson. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as being based upon a reference that does not anticipate all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 8 and 19, as amended. More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Aoki et al., Hirota and Johnson, either separately or combined, do not teach or suggest a claimed combination including at least the feature of “delaying source data while modulating source data” recited in independent

claims 1, 8 and 19, as amended. Support for such a feature can be found, for example, in paragraph [0048] of the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits that Aoki et al., Hirota and Johnson do not have any disclosure with regard to delaying source data. Further, Aoki et al., Hirota and Johnson do not have any disclosure with regard to modulating source data while delaying source data. Accordingly, Aoki et al., Hirota and Johnson, either separately or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 19, as amended.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of independent claims 1, 9 and 19, as amended, should be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully asserts that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 and 20 should also be withdrawn at least because of their respective dependencies upon independent claims 1, 9 and 19, and for the additional features that they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

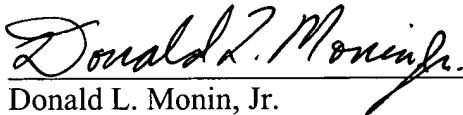
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 22, 2004

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